

opening near the subhead in the upper surface of the table. The opening is closed during the processing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2
In the present invention, a chute connected to the work sheet outlet of the lower turret can be provided in the main body frame supporting the lower turret. If constructed likewise, the small article work sheet cut off from the material work sheet can be discharged easily to the outside of the machine by being slid over the chute.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3
Moreover, in the present invention, an opening and closing plate freely opening and closing to cover the work sheet outlet can be provided in the lower turret so that the upper surface level in the closed state is to be approximately equal to the upper surface level of the lower turret. By providing the opening and closing plate to cover the work sheet outlet during the processing, the work sheet feeding or the punch processing can be carried out without being interrupted by the work sheet outlet. The opening and closing plate can be used just as a cover, or can be used as a chute, to discharge the small article work sheet being slid in self-control. Further, the upper surface level of the lower turret mentioned here is the upper surface of the table when employing a table in the lower turret.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Figures 4A-4C are views useful for explaining the discharging operation of the small article work sheet of the punch press.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, and continuing onto page 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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A plurality of punch storing holes 8 which hold the punch tool 6 freely elevating and descending, are employed by being arranged on the circumference of the upper turret 3. In the example shown in the drawing, the punch storing holes 8 are employed in two lines inside and outside. The punch tool 6 includes a punch cutting blade 7 (refer to Figure 2) employed within the punch tool 6. The lower turret 4 includes a die tool 9 corresponding to the punch tool 6 of the upper turret 3, held in a plurality via a die holder 10, and a plurality of die holders 10 are employed by being arranged on the circumference as shown in Figure 3. Referring to Figure 1, the punch driving mechanism 5 drives the punch tool 6 of the upper turret 3 by elevating and descending a ram 11. The ram 11 is connected to the drive source (not shown in the drawings) of the motor or the hydraulic cylinder or the like. In this example, two individual rams 11a corresponding to the punch tool 6 in two rows inside and outside, are employed. Out of these two rams 11a, only the one selected by a ram selector 21 is driven to be elevated and descended by the elevating and descending operation of the ram 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A6
A work sheet outlet 12 for discharging the small article work sheet cut off from the material work sheet in the punch processing, is employed in the inner diameter side of the employed section of the designated die holder 10 within the lower turret 4. A chute 13 which is connected to the work sheet outlet 12, is employed in the lower frame section 1b of the main body frame 1 supporting the lower turret 4. Moreover, a freely opening and closing plate 14 which covers the work sheet outlet 12, is employed in the lower turret 4. The height of the opening and closing plate 14 is set so that the upper surface level in the closed state equals approximately to the upper surface level of the lower turret 4. Specifically, the upper surface level of the opening and closing plate 14 in the closed state is set to be approximately equal to a table 17 employed in the upper surface of the lower turret 4 or a table 15 employed in the upper surface of the die holder 10. The tables 15, 17 are employed at the same level as to the upper surface level of a table 16 employed in the front of the lower turret 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19 and continuing to page 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A7
When the small article work sheet W is cut off from the material work sheet, as shown in Figures 4B and 4C, the opening and closing drive source 19 drives to the descending side, the opening and closing plate 14 becomes into a released state, facing perpendicularly downward, and the work sheet outlet 12 opens. As a result, the small article work sheet W falls freely from the work

A7
conclude

sheet outlet 12 of the lower turret 4 to the chute 13, slides through the chute 13, and is discharged to the outside of the machine.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 21 and continuing to page 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A8

When a chute connected to the work sheet outlet of the lower turret is employed in the main body frame supporting the lower turret, the small article work sheet cut off from the material work sheet can be discharged to the outside of the machine easily by self-control.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A9

When an opening and closing plate for covering the work sheet outlet is employed freely opening and closing to the lower part in the lower turret, the work sheet feeding or the punch processing can be prevented from being interrupted by the work sheet outlet. Moreover, the opening and closing plate can be used as a chute and the small article work sheet can be discharged by being slid.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, 2 and 3 as follows:

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A10

1. A turret punch press comprising:
an upper turret supporting a plurality of punch tools;